



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

June 23, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

## STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

**AB 185 (Horton)** would require Los Angeles County to make temporary positions in the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department Insect Detection Program full-time, permanent positions. Currently, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), which is responsible for insect control, generally contracts with counties, including the County, and provides funding for temporary or seasonal workers. The CDFA also employs its own workers on a part-time, 9-month basis for the insect detection programs in seven counties, including Santa Barbara, Orange and Riverside counties.

The Agricultural Commissioner believes that this is an important program for the County and the employees are essential to departmental operations, and recommends that the County support the bill if funding is provided. If the County were forced to make these positions full-time permanent positions, it would increase costs by nearly \$1 million annually. Therefore, **our Sacramento advocates will support AB 185, if it is amended to provide funding.**

The Agricultural Commissioner states that he would make the Inspector Aid positions permanent if funding were provided, but since there is no funding in the bill, AB 185 would create an unfunded mandate. As a consequence, 60 Inspector Aid part-time

positions, which receive health, and vacation benefits, would be eliminated and CDFA would take over the program. CDFA uses 9-month temporary staff with similar benefits, except health. In addition, the Agricultural Commissioner/Department of Weights and Measures would experience a loss of approximately \$2.8 million in contract revenue from CDFA, and seven full-time permanent County positions with supervisory responsibility over the program would have to be eliminated.

AB 185 passed the Assembly on the consent calendar on a vote of 76 to 0, on May 15, 2003, and is currently in the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources with a hearing date set for July 1, 2003. Supporters include the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO (sponsor), California Professional Firefighters, and forty individuals. It is opposed by the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association, California Association of Winegrape Growers, California State Association of Counties, Napa County Board of Supervisors, San Diego County and Shasta County Board of Supervisors.

**SB 757 (Poochigian)**, as amended on June 4, 2003, is now a workers' compensation reform bill that would require the implementation of medical treatment utilization guidelines and protocols for use in the workers' compensation system. The utilization guidelines and protocols would be based on standards used in other medical benefit systems as recommended by the State Commission on Health, Safety and Workers' Compensation.

CAO Risk Management staff is recommending support of SB 757 because over utilization of medical treatment is a major factor in rising workers' compensation costs. The development and implementation of fair and equitable utilization guidelines would help control these costs and could result in savings to the County of more than \$5 million per year. Therefore, **our Sacramento advocates will support SB 757** because it is consistent with current Board policy to support reforms of the workers' compensation system that would result in an efficient, equitable and cost effective system.

SB 757 passed out of the Senate on a vote of 38 to 0, and is in the Assembly Committee on Insurance awaiting a hearing date. It is sponsored by the California Chamber of Commerce and has the support (in concept) of the Agricultural Council of California, Automotive Aftermarket Services, Inc., California Agricultural Aircraft Association, California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers, California Beer and Beverage Distributors, California Citrus Mutual, California Cotton Ginners Association, California Farm Bureau Federation, California Fig Institute, California Grocers Association, California Logging Industry Association, California Plant Health Association, California Restaurant Association, California State Association of Counties, California Women for Agriculture, League of California Cities, Milk Producers Council,

Each Supervisor  
June 23, 2003  
Page 3

and the Western Growers Association. It is also supported by the California Association of Joint Powers Authorities, California Manufacturers and Technology Association, Denham Personnel Services, and the Tulare Chamber of Commerce. There is no registered opposition.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:DDN:ib

c:     Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
         County Counsel  
         Local 660  
         All Department Heads  
         Legislative Strategist  
         Coalition of County Unions  
         California Contract Cities Association  
         Independent Cities Association  
         League of California Cities  
         City Managers Associations